

Prices and Prospects.

COKE BUYERS AND SELLERS GRADUALLY GETTING TOGETHER ON 1916 CONTRACTS

Furnacemen Ready to Slide From Sliding Scale to Flat Rate.

OPERATORS HOLD FOR \$2.50

Big Sales for Last Quarter Delivery at \$2.00 to \$2.25 Tons Spot Coke Prices Higher with Little Spot; Pittsburgh Pig Iron Market Quiet.

Special to The Weekly Courier. PITTSBURGH, Sept. 22.—Buyers and sellers of furnace coke for the first half of next year are gradually getting together but there has been no important movement thus far. Predictions are now made that when a settling basis is established in the case of one or two contracts a general movement will quickly follow and that the major portion of the business now hanging fire will be closed within a few days.

It is not yet certain that the bulk of the business for the first half will be done on the sliding scale basis, although thus far nearly all the negotiations have been along that line. Such contracts as have already been closed in the past few weeks have not developed a definite settling basis. In one instance the contract covered the entire year 1916 and as the buyer was an eastern interest the settlement is arranged on eastern foundry iron, which of course could not be used in the case of the valley and nearby furnaces. In another instance the purchase was made on behalf of a furnace not now in blast and the price basis was a higher one than would likely obtain were the buyer certain to take deliveries regularly through the nominal contract period.

An influence which may dispose furnaces to lean later towards a flat price rather than a sliding scale is the fact that sales at flat prices have been made in the past week or ten days for delivery late in the current year, and at prices much above the quotations lately ruling on odd lots for spot shipment. Naturally the price at which a tonnage is sold is of more consequence in showing the general market level than the price at which odd lots of spot coke are sold from day to day. Spot coke is only a matter of a few cents, and a price is made simply to move the lot in question, the price having no real relation to the cost of production or the price the producer would expect to obtain over a period of time. Sales aggregating close to 50,000 tons, for delivery in the late months of the year, either fourth quarter or November and December, have been made at \$2.00 to \$2.25 per ton, compared with such transactions prices of \$1.60 or \$1.65, lately obtaining on odd lots for spot shipment, look entirely out of line, and with such transactions in view furnaces are expected to be less inclined to make purchases at flat prices for the first half of the new year, at levels the coke operators would consider satisfactory. It is definitely known that a flat price of \$2.25 for the first six months of next year has been made and turned down. The operators are somewhat less inclined than two or three weeks ago to depend for good prices for their coke upon the chances of the pig iron market. For a while it was considered a foregone conclusion that pig iron would advance indefinitely, but of late the operators are disposed to consider the risk involved in making sliding scale contracts, when it is not so certain that pig iron will advance to high levels, and take more interest in sales at flat prices, if a fair price can be secured on that basis. The market is quotable as follows, with nothing definite quotable for first half.

Prompt furnace \$1.45 to \$1.75
Fourth quarter \$2.00 to \$2.25
Prompt foundry \$2.00 to \$2.00
Contract foundry \$2.40 to \$2.50

The local pig iron market has been quiet, but has rather than lost strength, and as prices are contained. The furnaces appeared to be more reserved than formerly as to making sales. Consumers are well covered for the remainder of this year, at least as to foundry iron, and the furnaces are really well covered. It is only occasionally that as low as \$14.50, Valley, is quoted on foundry iron for early delivery while \$15.00 is the minimum for first half. With furnaces apparently preferring to wait in anticipation of higher prices later, Bessemer and basic are quoted only for early delivery, and are very firm at quoted prices, the market as a whole standing as follows:

Bessemer \$16.00
Basic \$15.00
Pig iron \$14.50 to \$15.00
Forge \$11.25 to \$11.75

Mineral Waters.
According to a statement on the production of mineral waters in 1914, now available for distribution by the Geological Survey, 54,338,466 gallons of mineral water was sold during the year. This quantity came from 829 commercial springs and had a value of \$4,882,328.

Truesdale a Visitor.
P. P. Truesdale, Assistant Freight Agent Pennsylvania Railroad Company, was in Connellsville Monday. He believes that the coming year is going to be one of the greatest in the history of the steel trade.

Review of the Connellsville Coke Trade.

Statistical Summary.

PRODUCTION.		WEEK ENDING SEPT. 18, 1915.				WEEK ENDING SEPT. 11, 1915.			
DISTRICT.	CARPS.	In.	Out.	Tons.	In.	Out.	Tons.	In.	Out.
Connellsville.....	21,547	15,777	5,770	201,247	15,777	5,770	208,138	21,547	15,777
Lower Connellsville.....	17,428	12,812	4,616	181,212	12,812	4,616	179,765	17,428	12,812
Totals.....	38,975	28,589	10,386	382,459	28,589	10,386	387,903	38,975	28,589
FURNACE OWNERS.		WEEK ENDING SEPT. 18, 1915.				WEEK ENDING SEPT. 11, 1915.			
DISTRICT.	CARPS.	In.	Out.	Tons.	In.	Out.	Tons.	In.	Out.
Connellsville.....	17,113	12,087	5,026	165,650	12,087	5,026	172,333	17,113	12,087
Lower Connellsville.....	5,552	4,725	708	62,025	4,725	708	62,025	5,552	4,725
Totals.....	22,665	16,812	5,734	227,675	16,812	5,734	234,358	22,665	16,812
MERCHANT OWNERS.		WEEK ENDING SEPT. 18, 1915.				WEEK ENDING SEPT. 11, 1915.			
DISTRICT.	CARPS.	In.	Out.	Tons.	In.	Out.	Tons.	In.	Out.
Connellsville.....	1,404	2,899	1,414	13,575	2,899	1,414	25,805	1,404	2,899
Lower Connellsville.....	11,874	7,088	4,908	119,217	7,088	4,908	116,910	11,874	7,088
Totals.....	13,278	9,987	6,322	132,792	9,987	6,322	142,715	13,278	9,987
SHIPMENTS.		WEEK ENDING SEPT. 18, 1915.				WEEK ENDING SEPT. 11, 1915.			
To Pittsburgh.....			3,890 Cars.			3,890 Cars.			3,890 Cars.
To Points West of Pittsburgh.....			5,400 Cars.			5,400 Cars.			5,400 Cars.
To Points East of the Region.....			1,570 Cars.			1,570 Cars.			1,570 Cars.
Totals.....			10,860 Cars.			10,860 Cars.			10,860 Cars.

THE LABOR FACTOR OF THE IRON AND STEEL SITUATION

The Alignment is Now Well Established and the Danger Over.

WHY WORKMEN ARE PLENTY

War Demand Has Not Made Employment for Common Labor Outside Steel Industry; Relation of Pig Iron Prices to Connellsville Coke.

A great deal of light has been thrown upon the labor situation in the iron and steel industry by the fact that the demand for pig iron has been so great that it has been necessary to import it from abroad. This is a situation which has not been met since the war began. The demand for pig iron has been so great that it has been necessary to import it from abroad. This is a situation which has not been met since the war began.

Now we have answers to these questions, but we doubt whether they are as satisfactory as they appear. The labor situation in the iron and steel industry is not as simple as it seems. There are many factors at work, and the situation is far from settled. The labor situation in the iron and steel industry is not as simple as it seems. There are many factors at work, and the situation is far from settled.

EQUIPMENT IS ORDERED

Pressed Steel Car Company Gets 18 Cars From Pittsburgh Company.

Eighteen cars have been ordered from the Pressed Steel Car Company by the Pittsburgh Company. The cars are to be used for the transportation of coke from the Connellsville region to the Pittsburgh region.

PLANTS TO RESUME

Richard Works May Be Closed in the Near Future.

Preparations have been made by the Richard Coal & Coke Company of Connellsville, with plant at Star Junction, Pa., for the resumption of operations. The company has been closed for some time due to the war, but it is now ready to resume operations.

WEALTH IN GROUND TO PAY HUGE DEBT OF WEST VIRGINIA

State Proposes to Tax Coal, Oil and Gas to Settle Virginia Claim.

EXPERTS GET DATA IN REGION

Commission Will Submit Plan to the Legislature Providing Production Tax as Means of Lifting Heavy Burden Added to the State's Debt.

The natural resources of West Virginia may pay the huge debt of \$18,000,000 owed the state of Virginia, according to a report of the state's geological survey. The report states that the state has a large amount of coal, oil and gas, and that these resources could be used to pay the debt.

A production tax on coal, oil and gas is proposed and probably will be recommended. No 100,000 have yet been gathered in. A representative of the commission was in Connellsville last week for the purpose of gathering data from the coke region. The commission is now gathering data from the coke region for the purpose of gathering data from the coke region.

MORE OVENS GOING IN

Rich Hill to Five Out of Its Plant in Near Future.

To add to the list of ovens that have gone in or are preparing to go in this during the next two weeks, is the Rich Hill plant of the Rich Hill Coke Company, at Onondaga. The plant has 120 ovens, but not all of these will be put in operation at first.

RECORD FREIGHT RATE

Vessel Will Get \$12 a Ton for Carrying Coal to Ohio.

A record freight rate for carrying coal will be paid to the Danah steamship line. The vessel will be chartered to carry a cargo of 3,000 tons of Connellsville coke to Ohio. The rate will be \$12 a ton, or nearly \$10,000, which is about one-third the value of the vessel.

THE UPPER CONNELLVILLE AND GREENSBURG REGIONS

Full Off Slightly in Output Last Week, But Maintains Record of Over 10,000 Tons.

The Upper Connellsville and Greensburg regions show a slightly reduced output last week, but still maintained over 10,000 tons weekly. The output of the Upper Connellsville region was 10,000 tons, and the output of the Greensburg region was 10,000 tons.

The weekly output of the Upper Connellsville and Greensburg regions for the week ending September 18th, 1915, was as follows:

DISTRICT.	CARPS.	In.	Out.	Tons.
Upper Connellsville.....	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000
Greensburg.....	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000
Totals.....	20,000	20,000	20,000	20,000

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Yards and Tracks Cleaned of Surplus Coke Last Week.

LABOR IN SUFFICIENT SUPPLY

But Workmen Won't Work all the Time; No Actual Shortage of Coke, But Pennsylvania Railroad is Putting 4,000 in Commission for Boom.

The Connellsville coke trade maintains a volume of approximately 300,000 tons weekly. The region is running practically three-fourths of its ovens 24 days per week. Shipments last week were 330,000 tons against a production of 332,000 tons. The curtailment in production and the excess in shipments were caused by the fact that while there is no actual shortage of coke cars there is no longer any surplus, and the railroads are requiring the operators to move all cars of coke promptly.

Last week upwards of 200 cars at the plants of one producing interest alone were sent out. This relieves the car situation and cleans up surplus coke. In the meantime the car supply is being increased by the addition of new equipment put into service by the Pennsylvania railroad.

The hot weather of last week did not affect the drawing of ovens very much, the workmen coming out in the small hours of the morning to perform their grilling task, but some operators are not getting full runs of coal every day because of the fact that miners are feeling their prosperity and insist upon taking holidays not down on the calendar. The Pennsylvania Railroad Company has shipped down the Martin plant and is shipping coal from the mine to its by-product operation recently completed in Youngstown, O. The plant at Republic will continue to operate about 200 ovens to supply the company's furnaces at Sharon and New Castle. The company owns three plants in the Connellsville region, namely: Atchison, 120 ovens; Martin, 244 ovens; and Republic, 300 ovens.

Production for the week ending Saturday, September 18th, was 332,000 tons, of which the merchant operators made 154,792 tons and the furnace ovens 227,675 tons. By districts the Connellsville region produced 201,247 tons and the Lower Connellsville region 131,242 tons. Compared with the previous week this indicates an increase in merchant production of 2,047 tons and a decrease in furnace production of 7,283 tons.

The P. R. plans all run the days while the other furnace ovens all run six days, making the average of the 78% of active furnace ovens 5.13 days. The week ending Saturday, September 18th, aggregated 10,735 cars carrying 330,230 tons compared as follows:

DISTRICT.	CARPS.	In.	Out.	Tons.
Upper Connellsville.....	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000
Greensburg.....	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000
Totals.....	20,000	20,000	20,000	20,000

Production and Output.

CONNELLVILLE COKE TRADE IS RUNNING CLOSE ON CARS, PRODUCTION AND LABOR

COKE FREIGHT RATES.

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ORGANIZING FOR A FIGHT

over its magnificent stretch from the Ohio state line to the seaboard, a train hauling oil and/or West Virginia. The trainee grows month by month and the future is better for now, which last fall completed the installation of electricity on the highway from a point west of Plaquemine to the Appalachians, the modern

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and is entirely mechanically handled and controlled by electronic means.

Graceton, Penna.

parts are completed by the Connellsville Iron Works. The bridge is in an advanced condition, it is said.
 The necessity of the closing of the bridge will be necessary for persons having business at Davidson or traveling to the Bridal Ford road to that place, points along the Morgan valley and westward to the bridge, which crosses the creek at York avenue.
 "Considerable inconvenience will be caused to travel by the closing of the Davidson bridge, but it is said **work** to the tourist will be justified."

Greened on Wed
 Arr. from Mt. Vernon to Scotland
 General D. B. Squire of Dunbar
 arrived at 12 o'clock to wed in the
 town yesterday.

Have You Coal Land for Sale?
 I have Coal land for sale at
 1000 ft. in the hills.

